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2 May 1956

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Response to Memorandum for the Record
dated 26 April 1956

1. On 12 April 1956 a memorandum was initiated in the Office of the Project Comptroller, pertaining to approval to pay military personnel under Agency Travel Regulations at all forward bases of operations. This approach did at the time and still does appear perfectly in order for reasons hereafter stated:

(a) Agency Regulation Number [] states that "Military Personnel may be authorized, at the discretion of this Agency, certain of the travel, transportation, and allowance entitlements of civilian personnel of the Agency in lieu of the comparable entitlements of the parent service. The basic consideration in granting any of the entitlements of civilian personnel is that the individual will incur substantial personal expenses as the direct result of his operational assignment or cover circumstances which he should not be expected to bear from his military entitlements." (underscoring supplied)

(b) In this Project there is a possibility that the unique operation could set off a fuse making it dangerous for dependents of personnel to be in the theater of Operation. The Project Director, with the sanction of the Department Head, has determined that the dependents of Project personnel will not be permitted overseas.

(c) The Project is either fortunate or unfortunate in being staffed with a combination of both civilians and military (including officers and enlisted men) because again of the unique assignment to be accomplished. These individuals are forced by the circumstances to live side by side, incur identical expenses and to a great extent will perform the same general types of duties.

(d) It is quite obvious that any employee serving abroad without dependents (maintaining two households) will "incur substantial personal expense as the direct result of his operational assignment" (see (a) above), which should bring the case under discussion within what appears to be the intent of regulation number [] as well as []. Further, as stated in [] dated 12 April, (in particular paragraph number 5) it is my understanding that military travel regulations are promulgated on the theory that personnel traveling thereunder will be, for the most part, going from one military base to another, which may very well not be the case here. In any event they will be incurring the exact expense of civilian personnel engaged in the same project.

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Accordingly, it was and is my recommendation that this point and the one following be discussed with the appropriate officials in USAF as stated in [redacted] and approval be secured, if legally correct, to permit paying all military travel overseas under the civilian regulations, or that the civilian personnel be paid under the military travel regulations. I would lean toward the first stated for the reasons indicated and further, because of the fact that it is virtually impossible for us to obtain the numerous changes to the Joint Travel Regulations here in Headquarters where we have very excellent liaison with the Military Personnel Division and I shudder to think what delays we would experience in securing and maintaining currently these regulations for each of our forward bases. The result of having incorrect or incomplete regulations are twofold, (a) incorrect payments are effected and (b) when current regulations are finally received one is confronted with the ordeal of effecting collections or adjusting payments previously made. The difference in the rates as stated in memorandum dated 12 April 1956 is insignificant.

2. By employing the same line of thinking as stated above, it is reasonable to assume, if the regulations are legally correct to begin with, that the storage expense of privately owned automobiles and household effects are proper within the spirit of the regulations, because here again the individual is being put to considerable expense as dictated by the unique mission to be performed under the Project and, in my opinion, an employee be he military or civilian, should not be expected to pay "out-of-pocket" for the privilege of working an assignment for the United States Government or any other enterprise.

3. It may appear that the above is critical of the personnel in SCAPS, but that is not what is intended. I personally feel they should be commended in raising the question. It is quite possible that we have been unable to acquaint the individuals involved in SCAPS sufficiently because of the security limitations; therefore, there is no alternative except to either supply them with an approval, or acquaint them with the Project mission to the extent of removing their objections to what we are attempting to accomplish.

[redacted]
Project Comptroller

Distribution:

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